

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): An information delivery system, comprising an information delivery device which delivers information, an information storage and playback device which stores information transmitted from the information delivery device and reproduces the information if necessary, and an information communicating means which is connected to the information delivery device and the information storage and playback device, wherein:

the information storage and playback device comprises: means for storing each of a plurality of partial information of a plurality of delivery information beforehand; means for choosing one of the partial information from the plurality of the stored partial information and reproducing the chosen partial information;; and means for giving notice of information that the one of the partial information has been chosen from the plurality of the delivery information to the information delivery device just as reproduction of the chosen partial information starts;

the information delivery device comprises means for transmitting remaining information of the partial information, which has been chosen to be reproduced and has been notified by the information storage and playback device, to the information storage and playback device just as reproduction of the partial information of the plurality of the delivery information finishes at the information storage and playback device;

the information storage and playback device includes a means of for reproducing the remaining information of the partial information transmitted from the information delivery device; and

the partial information of the delivery information, which is transmitted from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means and is received and stored in the information storage and playback device, is renewed, based on records of past utilization of the partial information, when necessary.

2. (Currently Amended): An information delivery system, comprising an information delivery device which delivers information, an information storage and playback device which stores information transmitted from the information delivery device and reproduces the information if necessary, and an information communicating means which is connected to the information delivery device and the information storage and playback device, wherein:

the information storage and playback device comprises: means for storing each of a plurality of partial information of a plurality of delivery information beforehand; means for choosing one of the partial information from the plurality of the stored partial information and reproducing the chosen partial information; and means for giving notice of information that the one of the partial information has been chosen from the plurality of the delivery information to the information delivery device just as reproduction of the chosen partial information starts;

the information delivery device includes a means of transmitting remaining information of the partial information which has been chosen to be reproduced at the information storage and playback device to the information storage and playback device while the information storage and playback device is reproducing the partial information;

the information storage and playback device comprises means for storing the remaining information of the partial information which has been chosen to be reproduced at the information storage and delivery device, and reproducing the stored remaining information of the partial information which has been chosen to be reproduced at the information storage and playback device just as reproduction of the partial information finishes; and

at least a portion of the plurality of partial information is stored in the means for storing without a user request prior to use of the information delivery system by a user.

3. (Previously Presented) The information delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein a the means for storing the partial information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device beforehand is installed by:

connecting a storage medium, in which the partial information of the delivery information is set up by the information delivery device beforehand, to the information storage and playback device, or transmitting the partial information of the delivery information which is set up by the information delivery device beforehand from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means and

storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to an information group chosen to be delivered by the information storage and playback device beforehand, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information which belongs to the information group in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to a past record of a user of the information storage and playback device, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past record of the user of the information storage and playback device, in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device; or

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to past records of a plurality of users of the information storage and playback devices, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of

the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past records of the plurality of the users of the information storage and playback devices, in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device.

4. (Previously Presented) The information delivery system as claimed in claim 2, wherein a the means for storing the partial information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device beforehand is installed by:

connecting a storage medium, in which the partial information of the delivery information is set up by the information delivery device beforehand, to the information storage and playback device, or transmitting the partial information of the delivery information which is set up by the information delivery device beforehand from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to an information group chosen to be delivered by the information storage and playback device beforehand, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information which belongs to the information group in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to a past record of a user of the information storage and playback device, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past record of the user of the information storage and playback device, in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device; or

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to past records of a plurality of users of the information storage and playback devices, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past records of the plurality of the users of the information storage and playback devices, in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The information delivery system as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

the partial information of the delivery information, which is transmitted from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means and is received and stored in the information storage and playback device, is renewed when necessary; and

a the means for storing the partial information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device beforehand is installed by:

connecting a storage medium, in which the partial information of the delivery information is set up by the information delivery device beforehand, to the information storage and playback device, or transmitting the partial information of the delivery information which is set up by the information delivery device beforehand from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to an information group chosen to be delivered by the information storage and playback device beforehand, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information which belongs to the information group in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to a past record of a user of the

information storage and playback device, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past record of the user of the information storage and playback device, in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device; or

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to past records of a plurality of users of the information storage and playback devices, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past records of the plurality of the users of the information storage and playback devices, in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device.

7. (Original) The information delivery device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information storage and playback device, which includes a plurality of storage mediums for storing information, stores the partial information of the delivery information in a primary storage medium, and stores the partial information of the delivery information and remaining information of the delivery information transmitted from the information delivery device in one of the other storage mediums different from the primary storage medium.

8. (Original) The information delivery device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the information storage and playback device, which includes a plurality of storage mediums for storing information, stores the partial information of the delivery information in a primary storage medium, and stores the partial information of the delivery information and remaining information of the delivery information transmitted from the information delivery device in one of the other storage mediums different from the primary storage medium.

9. (Original) The information delivery device as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the information storage and playback device, which includes a plurality of storage mediums for storing information, stores the partial information of the delivery information in a primary storage medium, and stores the partial information of the delivery information and remaining information of the delivery information transmitted from the information delivery device in one of the other storage mediums different from the primary storage medium; and

the information delivery system employs at least one selected from a removable disk, an optical disk, a phase change optical disk, and a tape medium as a storage medium different from the primal storage medium.

10. (Original) The information delivery device as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

the information storage and playback device, which includes a plurality of storage mediums for storing information, stores the partial information of the delivery information in a primary storage medium, and stores the partial information of the delivery information and remaining information of the delivery information transmitted from the information delivery device in one of the other storage mediums different from the primary storage medium; and

the information delivery system employs at least one selected from a removable disk, an optical disk, a phase change optical disk, and a tape medium as a storage medium different from the primal storage medium.

11. (Currently Amended) The information delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information communicating means comprises ~~includes~~ at least one ~~of~~selected from a ~~communicating means for communicating by an electric wave~~, a communicating means for communicating by ~~an electric wave going through a~~ satellite, a communicating means for communicating by a public phone line, and a communicating means for communicating by the Internet.

12. (Currently Amended) The information delivery system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the information communicating means ~~includes~~ comprising at least one ~~of~~selected from a ~~communicating means for communicating by an electric wave~~, a communicating means for communicating by ~~an electric wave going through a~~ satellite, a communicating means for

communicating by a public phone line, and a communicating means for communicating by the Internet.

13. (Original) The information delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the delivery information includes image information, moving picture information, or voice information.

14. (Original) The information delivery system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the delivery information includes image information, moving picture information, or voice information.

15. (Original) The information delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the delivery information includes image information, moving picture information, or voice information; and

the delivery information includes compressed data information.

16. (Original) The information delivery system as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

the delivery information includes image information, moving picture information, or voice information; and

the delivery information includes compressed data information.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering information, in an information delivery system comprising an information delivery device which delivers information, an information storage and playback device which stores information transmitted from the information delivery device and reproduces the information if necessary, and an information communicating means which is connected to the information delivery device and the information storage and playback device, the method comprising:

storing each of a plurality of partial information of a plurality of delivery information beforehand in the information storage and playback device;

choosing one of the partial information from the plurality of the stored partial information and reproducing the chosen partial information at the information storage and playback device;

giving notice of information that the one of the partial information has been chosen from the plurality of the delivery information to the information delivery device just as reproduction of the chosen partial information starts;

transmitting remaining information of the partial information, which has been chosen to be reproduced and has been notified by the information storage and playback device to the information storage and playback device just as reproduction of the partial information of the plurality of the delivery information finishes at the information storage and playback device, and reproducing the remaining information of the partial information transmitted from the information delivery device; and

the partial information of the delivery information, which is transmitted from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means and is received and stored in the information storage and playback device, is renewed, based on records of past utilization of the partial information, when necessary.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering information, in an information delivery system comprising an information delivery device which delivers information, an information storage and playback device which stores information transmitted from the information delivery device and reproduces the information if necessary, and an information communicating means which is connected to the information delivery device and the information storage and playback device, the method comprising:

storing each of a plurality of partial information of a plurality of delivery information beforehand in the information storage and playback device;

choosing one of the partial information from the plurality of the stored partial information and reproducing the chosen partial information at the information storage and playback device;

giving notice of information that the one of the partial information has been chosen from the plurality of the delivery information to the information delivery device just as reproduction of the chosen partial information starts;

transmitting remaining information of the partial information which has been chosen to be reproduced at the information storage and playback device to the information storage and

playback device and storing the remaining information of the partial information which has been chosen to be reproduced at the information storage and delivery device while the information storage and playback device is reproducing the partial information; and

reproducing the stored remaining information of the partial information which has been chosen to be reproduced at the information storage and playback device just as reproduction of the partial information finishes,

wherein at least a portion of the plurality of partial information is stored in the information storage and playback device without a user request prior to use of the information delivery system by a user.

19. (Previously Presented) The method for delivering information as claimed in claim 17, wherein the storing of the partial information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device beforehand comprises:

connecting a storage medium, in which the partial information of the delivery information is set up by the information delivery device beforehand, to the information storage and playback device, or transmitting the partial information of the delivery information which is set up by the information delivery device beforehand from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means and storing the transmitted part of the information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device;

transmitting the partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to an information group chosen to be delivered by the information storage and playback device beforehand, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information which belongs to the information group in the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to a past record of a user of the information storage and playback device, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past record of the user of the information storage and playback device, in the information storage and playback device; or

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to past records of a plurality of users of the information storage and playback devices, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past records of the users of the information storage and playback devices, in the information storage and playback device.

20. (Previously Presented) The method for delivering information as claimed in claim 18, wherein the storing of the partial information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device beforehand comprises:

connecting a storage medium, in which the partial information of the delivery information is set up by the information delivery device beforehand, to the information storage and playback device, or transmitting the partial information of the delivery information which is set up by the information delivery device beforehand from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means and storing the transmitted part of the information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device;

transmitting the partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to an information group chosen to be delivered by the information storage and playback device beforehand, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information which belongs to the information group in the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to a past record of a user of the information storage and playback device, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of

the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past record of the user of the information storage and playback device, in the information storage and playback device; or

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to past records of a plurality of users of the information storage and playback devices, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past records of the users of the information storage and playback devices, in the information storage and playback device.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method for delivering information as claimed in claim 18, wherein:

the partial information of the delivery information, which is transmitted from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means and is received and stored in the information storage and playback device, is renewed when necessary; and

the storing of the partial information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device beforehand comprises:

connecting a storage medium, in which the partial information of the delivery information is set up by the information delivery device beforehand, to the information storage and playback device, or transmitting the partial information of the delivery information which is set up by the information delivery device beforehand from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means and storing the transmitted part of the information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device;

transmitting the partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to an information group chosen to be delivered by the information storage and playback device beforehand, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information which belongs to the information group in the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to a past record of a user of the information storage and playback device, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past record of the user of the information storage and playback device, in the information storage and playback device; or

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to past records of a plurality of users of the information storage and playback devices, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past records of the users of the information storage and playback devices, in the information storage and playback device.

23. (Previously Presented) A method for accounting for delivery information employing the information delivery system claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 16, wherein:

an information user making use of the information storage and playback device receives image, reflection or voice information from the information delivery device through the information communicating means; and

an information provider, who delivers the image, reflection or voice information to the information user by employing the information delivery device, accounts for use of the image, reflection or voice information by the information user, the accounting including cost information attributable to the information user.

24. (Original) The method for accounting in the information storage and playback device as claimed in claim 23, wherein timing of the accounting is chosen from timing:

in parallel with a start of reproducing partial information of delivery information;

after a prescribed period of time from a start of reproducing the partial information of the delivery information; or

after reproducing a prescribed amount of the partial information of the delivery information from a start of reproducing the partial information of the delivery information.

25. (Original) The method for accounting in the information storage and playback device as claimed in claim 23, wherein timing of the accounting is chosen from timing:

in parallel with a start of reproducing remaining information of delivery information;

after a prescribed period of time from a start of reproducing the remaining information of the delivery information; or

after reproducing a prescribed amount of the remaining information of the delivery information from a start of reproducing the remaining information of the delivery information.

26. (Original) The method for accounting in the information storage and playback device as claimed in claim 23, wherein timing of the accounting is chosen from timing:

in parallel with a finish of reproducing remaining information of delivery information; or

after a prescribed time of a finish of reproducing the remaining information of the delivery information.

27. (Original) The method for accounting in the information storage and playback device as claimed in claim 23, wherein timing of the accounting is chosen from timing:

in parallel with a start of transmitting remaining information of delivery information;

after a prescribed time of a start of transmitting the remaining information of the delivery information; or

after transmitting a prescribed amount of the remaining information of the delivery information from a start of transmitting the remaining information of the delivery information.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) ~~The method for accounting in the information storage and playback device as claimed in claim 28,~~ An information delivery system, comprising an information delivery device which delivers information, an information storage and playback device which stores information transmitted from the information delivery device and reproduces the information if necessary, and an information communicating means which is connected to the information delivery device and the information storage and playback device, wherein:

the information storage and playback device comprises: means for storing each of a plurality of partial information of a plurality of delivery information beforehand; means for choosing one of the partial information from the plurality of the stored partial information and

reproducing the chosen partial information; and means for giving notice of information that the one of the partial information has been chosen from the plurality of the delivery information to the information delivery device just as reproduction of the chosen partial information starts;

the information delivery device comprises means of for transmitting remaining information of the partial information, which has been chosen to be reproduced and has been notified by the information storage and playback device, to the information storage and playback device just as reproduction of the partial information of the plurality of the delivery information finishes at the information storage and playback device;

the information storage and playback device comprises means of for reproducing the remaining information of the partial information transmitted from the information delivery device;

an information user making use of the information storage and playback device receives image, reflection or voice information from the information delivery device through the information communicating means; and

an information provider, who delivers the image, reflection or voice information to the information user by employing the information delivery device, accounts for use of the image, reflection or voice information by the information user, the accounting including cost information attributable to the information user,

wherein timing of the accounting of the cost information is chosen from timing:

in parallel with a start of reproducing partial information of delivery information;

after a prescribed period of time from a start of reproducing the partial information of the delivery information; or

after reproducing a prescribed amount of the partial information of the delivery information from a start of reproducing the partial information of the delivery information.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~The method for accounting in the information storage and playback device as claimed in claim 28~~ An information delivery system, comprising an information delivery device which delivers information, an information storage and playback device which stores information transmitted from the information delivery device and reproduces the information if necessary, and an information communicating means which is connected to the information delivery device and the information storage and playback device, wherein:

the information storage and playback device comprises: means for storing each of a plurality of partial information of a plurality of delivery information beforehand; means for choosing one of the partial information from the plurality of the stored partial information and reproducing the chosen partial information; and means for giving notice of information that the one of the partial information has been chosen from the plurality of the delivery information to the information delivery device just as reproduction of the chosen partial information starts;

the information delivery device comprises means of for transmitting remaining information of the partial information, which has been chosen to be reproduced and has been notified by the information storage and playback device, to the information storage and playback

device just as reproduction of the partial information of the plurality of the delivery information finishes at the information storage and playback device;

the information storage and playback device comprises means of for reproducing the remaining information of the partial information transmitted from the information delivery device;

an information user making use of the information storage and playback device receives image, reflection or voice information from the information delivery device through the information communicating means; and

an information provider, who delivers the image, reflection or voice information to the information user by employing the information delivery device, accounts for use of the image, reflection or voice information by the information user, the accounting including cost information attributable to the information user, wherein timing of the accounting of the cost information is chosen from timing:

in parallel with a start of reproducing remaining information of delivery information;

after a prescribed period of time from a start of reproducing the remaining information of the delivery information; or

after reproducing a prescribed amount of the remaining information of the delivery information from a start of reproducing the remaining information of the delivery information.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The method for accounting in the information storage and playback device as claimed in claim 28~~ An information delivery system, comprising an information delivery device which delivers information, an information storage and playback device which stores information transmitted from the information delivery device and reproduces the information if necessary, and an information communicating means which is connected to the information delivery device and the information storage and playback device, wherein:

the information storage and playback device comprises: means for storing each of a plurality of partial information of a plurality of delivery information beforehand; means for choosing one of the partial information from the plurality of the stored partial information and reproducing the chosen partial information; and means for giving notice of information that the one of the partial information has been chosen from the plurality of the delivery information to the information delivery device just as reproduction of the chosen partial information starts;

the information delivery device comprises means of for transmitting remaining information of the partial information, which has been chosen to be reproduced and has been notified by the information storage and playback device, to the information storage and playback device just as reproduction of the partial information of the plurality of the delivery information finishes at the information storage and playback device;

the information storage and playback device comprises means of for reproducing the remaining information of the partial information transmitted from the information delivery device;

an information user making use of the information storage and playback device receives image, reflection or voice information from the information delivery device through the information communicating means; and

an information provider, who delivers the image, reflection or voice information to the information user by employing the information delivery device, accounts for use of the image, reflection or voice information by the information user, the accounting including cost information attributable to the information user, wherein timing of the accounting of the cost information is chosen from timing:

in parallel with a finish of reproducing remaining information of delivery information; or

after a prescribed time of a finish of reproducing the remaining information of the delivery information.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~The method for accounting in the information storage and playback device as claimed in claim 28~~ An information delivery system, comprising an information delivery device which delivers information, an information storage and playback device which stores information transmitted from the information delivery device and reproduces the information if necessary, and an information communicating means which is connected to the information delivery device and the information storage and playback device, wherein:

the information storage and playback device comprises: means for storing each of a plurality of partial information of a plurality of delivery information beforehand; means for choosing one of the partial information from the plurality of the stored partial information and

reproducing the chosen partial information; and means for giving notice of information that the one of the partial information has been chosen from the plurality of the delivery information to the information delivery device just as reproduction of the chosen partial information starts;

the information delivery device comprises means of for transmitting remaining information of the partial information, which has been chosen to be reproduced and has been notified by the information storage and playback device, to the information storage and playback device just as reproduction of the partial information of the plurality of the delivery information finishes at the information storage and playback device;

the information storage and playback device comprises means of for reproducing the remaining information of the partial information transmitted from the information delivery device;

an information user making use of the information storage and playback device receives image, reflection or voice information from the information delivery device through the information communicating means; and

an information provider, who delivers the image, reflection or voice information to the information user by employing the information delivery device, accounts for use of the image, reflection or voice information by the information user, the accounting including cost information attributable to the information user, wherein timing of the accounting of the cost information is chosen from timing;

in parallel with a start of transmitting remaining information of delivery information;

after a prescribed time of a start of transmitting the remaining information of the delivery information; or

after transmitting a prescribed amount of the remaining information of the delivery information from a start of transmitting the remaining information of the delivery information.

33. -48. (Cancelled)